on 15th February, 2001 at office of the Samiti. Scrutiny of its accounts has also been taken up by reopening of its Income Tax assessment for Assessment Year 1990-1991 to 2000-2001. All allegations made against Samiti shall be examined during assessment proceedings for these years which are to be completed on or before Statutory time limit of 31st March, 2003.

Financial aid to sick nationalised banks

†66. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided loan to two sick nationalised banks to safeguard them from financial crisis;

(b) if so, the details of the amount given, bank-wise;

(c) whether these banks will be able to come out of the financial crisis;

(d) if not, whether Government would go for privatisation of these banks; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE .IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has not provided loan to weak banks *viz.* Indian Bank, UCO Bank and United Bank of India. However, these banks, being wholly owned by the Government, capital assistance to enable them to meet the RBI's stipulated minimum capital adequacy requirement have been provided during the last five years. The bank-wise details are as under:—

(i) Indian Bank —Rs. 1850 crore

(ii) UCO Bank —Rs. 714 crore

(iii) United Bank of India —Rs. 694 crore

(c) to (e) UCO Bank and United Bank of India have posted net

†Original notice of the questions was received in Hindi.

profits during the last three years. Indian Bank has been posting operating profit and is expected to post net profit during the current financial year.

Tax on tobacco export earnings

67. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh virtually lost Rs. 300 crore due to tobacco crop holiday declared last year;

(b) whether tobacco farmers submitted a memorandum seeking a cut in tax on export earnings; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No. The direct losses for not growing tobacco last year were more or less off set by raising alternative crops successfully in most of the areas and taking good returns from them. Indirect benefits accrued to soil and environment through crop rotation and breaking the cycle of mono cropping of tobacco will definitely out weigh direct losses. Further, even the crop holiday decision has not resulted in liquidation of the old stocks held by exporters and dealers in the market, a major problem plaguing the industry. In the present circumstances, it can be safely concluded that a major crisis has been avoided by not growing tobacco during last year.

(b) The memorandum does' not seek a cut in tax on export earnings.

(c) Does not arise.